

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04

RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 IGA-02 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 H-03 RSR-01 /227 W
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R 131450Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1140

INFO US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 3468

USMISSION USUN NY

US MISSION OECD PARIS 6272

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD

SUBJ: UNCTAD: SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON NTBS--FIRST WEEK

REF: GENEVA 4308

BEGIN SUMMARY: SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON NON-TARIFF TRADE
BARRIERS (NTBS) CLEARLY FOCUS OF LDC INTEREST AT SIXTH
SESSION OF COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES. DESPITE INITIAL
IMPASSE OVER AGENDA, COMMITTEE SEEMED TO BE HITTING STRIDE
AT END OF FIRST WEEK. THUS FAR COMMITTEE HAS CONCLUDED
DEBATE ON PROGRESS IN ELIMINATION OF NTBS (ITEM 4(A))
LDC PARTICIPATION IN MTN (ITEM 4(B)), AND SAFEGUARDS (ITEM 4(D)).
WHILE US HAS COME AWAY FROM DEBATE VIRTUALLY UNSCATHED,
EC HAS FARED LESS WELL, DRAWING CRITICISM
IN DISCUSSION OF BOTH SUB-ITEMS 4(A) AND 4(D). LDCS,
FOR THEIR PART HAVE BEEN CONSPICUOUSLY RESTRAINED. PLENARY
REPORTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY

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1. LDC INTEREST AT MEETING CLEARLY CENTERED ON SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON NTBS, WHICH HAD DIFFICULTIES INITIALLY BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO AGREE ON ORGANIZATION OF WORK. IMPASSE LARGELY CREATED BY INEXPERIENCED CHAIRMAN WHO ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO HAVE SUB-ITEMS ON ELIMINATION OF NTBS (4(A)) AND PROPOSED REMEDIAL MEASURES (4(F)) CONSIDERED JOINTLY.

2. ELIMINATING NTBS, SUB-ITEM 4(A): IN COMPREHENSIVE FOUR-PAGE STATEMENT, SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP OF 77 ZEROED IN ON EC, TAKING COMMUNITY TO TASK GENERALLY FOR SLOW PROGRESS IN OPENING UP ITS MARKETS TO LDCS AND PARTICULARLY FOR "HARSH FORM OF PROTECTION" EMBODIED IN ITS SYSTEM OF VARIABLE LEVIES. NUMBER OF EC MEMBER COUNTRIES INTERVENED IN DEFENSE OF COMMUNITY'S AGRICULTURAL POLICY INCLUDING VARIABLE LEVIES, BUT MOST EFFECTIVE REJOINDER MADE BY EC COMMISSION REP. AFTER NOTING UNCTAD HAS USEFUL INFORMATIONAL ROLE ON NTBS BUT THAT NEGOTIATIONS MUST TAKE PLACE UNDER GATT AUSPICES, US DEL MADE POINTS CONTAINED IN INSTRUCTIONS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON NTBS OF CONCERN TO LDCS, US INTERPRETATION OF STANDSTILL, CURRENT STATUS OF PETROLEUM AND DAIRY QUOTAS AND CORRECTION OF OVERSTATED NTB RE COPYRIGHT PROTECTION, WITH RESULT US RECORD AND POSITION ON NTBS RECOGNIZED AS VERY POSITIVE COMPARED WITH OTHER DCS.

3. DEBATE ON ITEM 4(B), LDC PARTICIPATION IN MTN, WAS CONSPICUOUSLY RESTRAINED, APPARENTLY INDICATING DESIRE TO AVOID UPSETTING DELICATE COMPROMISE REACHED IN PREPCOM. JAMAICA (WALKER) MADE TEMPERED STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF GROUP OF 77 QUOTING LIBERALLY FROM DRAFT TOKYO DECLARATION BUT INCLUDING ADMONITION THAT SHOULD MTN NOT PROGRESS TO SATISFACTION OF LDCS, 77 RESERVED RIGHT TO RESORT TO OTHER MEASURES. GROUP B COUNTRIES (WITH EXCEPTION OF SPAIN AND TURKEY) INTERVENED EARLY IN DEBATE WITH SINGLE STATEMENT LIMITED TO COUNTRY PARTICIPATION, NEGOTIATING TECHNIQUES AND OVERALL AIMS OF MTN AS SET FORTH IN DRAFT DECLARATION. POLAND MADE MILD BUT SOMEWHAT LONG-WINDED INTERVENTION ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH LDCS IN SEEKING FURTHER TRADE LIBERALIZATION, PARTICULARLY OF QRS AND OTHER NTBS WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HINDER POLISH EXPORTS. ROMANIA, COMMENTING IN SAME VEIN, CALLED FOR MFN EXTENSION TO ALL LDCS OF BENEFITS FLOWING FROM MTN IRRESPECTIVE OF SOCIAL SYSTEM OR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION.

4. EGYPT NOTED THAT MANY NTBS CITED IN SECRETARIAT STUDY (TD/B/C.1/115) ARE ILLEGAL UNDER THE GATT AND CALLED FOR GENERALIZED NTB PREFERENCES PARALLELING

TARIFF GSP.

5. SAFEGUARDS AND STANDSTILL, ITEM 4(D). AS EXPECTED, EC MEMBERS VIRTUALLY SILENT ON THIS ITEM EXCEPT FOR INTERVENTION BY EC COMMISSION SPOKESMAN WHO SUBMITTED NEW LANGUAGE RE COMMUNITY POLICY ON SAFEGUARD AND STANDSTILL SUPERCEDING PARAS 29-31 OF DOCUMENT TD/B/C.2/R.4. US, AFTER NOTING THAT MUCH THOUGHT AND EFFORT HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO ISSUE OF SAFEGUARDS IN USG, MADE POINTS CONTAINED IN POSITION PAPER AND EBERLE JULY 6 STATEMENT AS REQUESTED, AND WELCOMED ELEMENTS SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTATION WHICH RECOGNIZED DCS' NEED FOR SAFEGUARDS. THIS APPROACH BROUGHT FAVORABLE INFORMAL REACTIONS FROM SEVERAL DC AND LDC DELS.

6. ONLY OTHER COUNTRY TO TAKE FLOOR WAS EGYPT, WHO AT LAST MINUTE DESIGNATED TO SPEAK FOR GROUP OF 77. STATEMENT, IN ADDITION TO PROPOSING AMENDMENT OF GATT ARTICLE XIX TO TAKE ACCOUNT NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF LDCS, RECOMMENDED SET OF INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA TO BE FOLLOWED IN APPLYING SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING (A) EXEMPTION OF LEAST DEVELOPED LDCS, (B) INTERNATIONAL SURVEILLANCE, (C) TEMPORARY APPLICATION WITH GRADUAL PHASING OUT, (D) INTRODUCTION OF ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE MEASURES GEARED TOWARD "COMPLEMENTARITY" AND (E) PROVISION FOR EXPANSION OF IMPORTS FROM LDCS WHEN SAFEGUARD MEASURES TAKE FORM OF QUOTA RESTRICTIONS. DEBATE ON ITEM 4 CONTINUES.

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